

Welcome to Ruminant Health & Welfare

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Ruminant Health & Welfare. May was a particularly exciting month here at RH&W as we announced the results of our survey to a webinar audience of nearly 200 from every corner of the ruminant sector. We really appreciate you taking the time out of your day to attend or catch up afterwards - collaboration across the industry is key to the next steps from the report.

As you can expect, this newsletter will provide some highlights about our results and there are links to catch up on the webinar, as well as to the report itself - if you missed it. Thank you to AHDB who kindly hosted the webinar and analysed the results.

The results will help to form workshops in June, which will bring together farmers, vets, researchers and industry organisations/stakeholders. We will discuss the priorities, existing interventions and the gaps where RH&W could facilitate or speed progress and overcome barriers.

I look forward to reporting back to you over the summer!

Please follow us on [Twitter](#) - to keep up to date with the latest news.

In the meantime, please contact us or send feedback to secretary@ruminanthw.org.uk and let us know if there are issues or stories you feel we should cover in the next update. Look forward to hearing from you.



Nigel Miller
Chair
RH&W



RH&W survey identifies key disease priorities

Lameness-related problems and endemic infectious disease continue to be key issues, according to the results of our survey. These erode the efficiency of production and compromise the wellbeing of cattle and sheep, indicating where a step-change in progress is needed.

[Read the press release here.](#)

RUMINANT
HEALTH & WELFARE

AHDB

Ruminant Health & Welfare

Cattle and sheep health and welfare priorities - a 'grassroots' survey across the four nations of the UK
MAY 2021

Survey carried out by RH&W
Analysis and report generated by AHDB, with additional commentary from RH&W
www.ruminanthw.org.uk

Read the full RH&W results report

These results are some of the first that truly take into account those at the coalface of farming, who deal with these diseases and conditions on a daily basis.

We look forward to this report playing an important role in setting strategic goals and activities for RH&W and the wider industry across the four nations over coming years. [Read the full report here.](#)

Meet the steering group

Two steering group members, Colin Mason and Phil Stocker, presented their observations of the results findings at the launch...



Colin Mason, board member of the British Cattle Veterinary Association

Colin Mason is a Veterinary Investigation Officer based in Dumfries. His work there involves disease investigation and diagnostics for the livestock farmers in SW Scotland and NW England. Prior to that he worked in farm animal practice in Cheshire.

"It is reassuring that the survey has confirmed digital dermatitis and lameness among the top issues in cattle – but concerning that they remain so damaging. Equally, fertility, mastitis and youngstock disease continue to be headlines that must be addressed. However there is good coherency in the survey between specific diseases and syndromes, for example digital dermatitis to lameness, and viral pneumonia to calf disease, and that only adds to the weight of the findings."



Phil Stocker, chief executive of the National Sheep Association

Phil joined NSA in 2011, taking the role of chief executive and leading the UK's specialist membership organisation for those interested in sheep and sheep farming.

"The responses may reflect health problems that farmers see rather than diseases that are difficult to see yet cause sub-clinical problems. Overall, we do have solutions to many of the common diseases that are causing problems, but putting them in place on-farm creates challenges. It's interesting that the top syndrome in sheep is neonatal lamb disease/mortality, yet none of the neonatal diseases are in the top six diseases. CODD is also likely to be under-diagnosed."

[See the rest of our steering group members here...](#)



AHDB
WEBINAR

Ruminant Health & Welfare survey results

The webinar, kindly hosted by AHDB, is now available for catch up, for those who couldn't make it live.

Watch the recording [here](#) or click on the link above.

Questions from the webinar

Q: Lameness keeps coming up as the top concern across cattle and sheep, yet the tools to address underlying conditions are out there. How do we drive better uptake?

A: One of the aims of the workshop on 29 June will be to examine where scientific, policy and communications gaps are, and determine ways to drive awareness and uptake. It could be lack of awareness of tools, or lack of awareness of the issue on farm. Both need addressing.

Read more of the questions [here](#).

Other news from the industry

- A new register of sheep advisers has launched known as the RoSA, find out more [here](#). A further technical event is planned for 1 June, on how to maintain post-weaning performance of lambs, for details visit the NSA website [here](#).
- CHECS has rolled out a new membership option to combat TB risk, focusing on biosecurity ‘basics’ to help farmers reduce the risk of TB breakdowns in their herds. [For more information click here.](#)
- Changes to Johne’s disease testing protocols which may affect subsequent herd Risk Levels have been announced. [See more information here.](#)
- Are you a sheep farmer achieving good animal welfare? ADAS are looking for sheep farmers to take part in a Defra-funded research project to inform the development of a future voluntary scheme to financially support farmers in delivering good animal welfare. [For more information click here.](#)

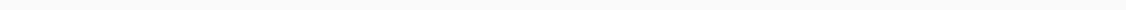
We are an independent, industry-based body tasked with helping farmers and stock managers tackle sheep and cattle disease, and build the health and welfare status, resilience and production efficiency of our national flock and herd.

Our Aims

- **Prevent, manage or eradicate** - those diseases with the greatest impact on health, welfare and productivity.
- **Identify opportunities** - for practical and effective farm-level interventions that support the four nations ambition of being among world leaders in animal welfare.
- **Address** - inherent challenges in current and future farming systems that could lead to health and welfare or reputational challenges.



- **Champion** - high health and welfare standards, and other priorities relating to domestic or overseas markets for the four nations.



Copyright © 2021 Ruminant Health & Welfare, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you expressed an interest in RH&W or have opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Ruminant Health & Welfare
(c/o AHDB),
Unit 201 5th Street, Stoneleigh Park
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2TL
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

[Forward to a friend](#) or [subscribe and get RH&W news straight to your inbox.](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list.](#)

